

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Decontamination Specialist Certification Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply to become a certified Decontamination Specialist?

The application procedures and eligibility requirements are outlined in R311-500, Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act, Decontamination Specialist Certification Program rules. Please refer to the following link for a copy of the rules and further information about the program <http://www.superfund.utah.gov/meth/certification.htm>.

Is there a study guide to help me prepare for the exam noted in R311-500?

The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) has developed a training manual titled Decontamination Specialist Training Manual (2005). The manual can be purchased at AlphaGraphics (801) 364-8451 for a fee. Individuals may purchase and review this manual prior to taking the exam. The exam is based on R392-600, Illegal Drug Operations Decontamination Standards and the contents of this manual. Purchase of the manual is not required to take the exam, but it is recommended.

Am I required to attend a specific OSHA health and safety training course?

The DERR does not specify a particular course. The applicant may choose their own course provided it meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120. All certificates of completion must be included with the initial and renewal application.

Is there a cut off date for certification as a Decontamination Specialist?

There is no date specified in R311-500. However, a Decontamination Specialist performing decontamination activities shall be certified prior to engaging in any decontamination activities for the purpose of removing property from the contamination list referenced in Section 19-6-903(3)(b).

What are the Performance Standards in R311-500-8?

The Performance Standards are a series of standards that govern how work is performed during the certification period. Failure to comply with the standards may be cause for agency action as specified in R311-500-9.

Are there standards promulgated in Utah for methamphetamine cleanup?

The Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act provides procedures for local health departments regarding property contaminated by illegal drug operations. Investigation, sampling, decontamination and reporting requirements are defined in R392-600. Contractor certification standards are defined in R311-500. In addition, some Utah counties may have independent authority to require cleanup based on occupancy of the structure or other health and building codes. The DERR recommends that any individual involved in the cleanup of contaminated property comply with the current rules and regulations and work with the local health department to ensure regulatory requirements are met and the cleanup is protective of human health and the environment.